

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The Delaware legislature has once more turned down the "Gas."

It is time to organize. Victories are won by thorough organization.

Mr. Garfield's report on the beef trust would seem to indicate that he boards.

The public continues to take more interest in Lawson's charges than they do in Lawson's record.

Then, too, there are some senatorial vindications that would look much better after being burned.

Of course Mr. Rockefeller is willing—even anxious—for Mr. Garfield to investigate the Standard Oil trust.

The Commoner's subscription offer on another page is liberal, and hundreds are taking advantage of it.

Will some kind gentlemen please move to take up a collection for the benefit of the poor beef trust?

Mr. Rockefeller is of the opinion that his Kansas prospectors struck a "gusher" of the wrong kind.

Has the president the courage to fight the corporate interests massed behind the railroads and the trusts?

Senators elected by legislative vote doubtless may secure an endorsement of the method from Judge Swayne.

The public official who rides on passes and collects mileage from the public treasury certainly has a strained idea of honesty.

The people should not expect any particular reforms from the senate until after there has been a general reform of the senate.

The chief trouble with the "liberal decrees" of the czar is that the grand dukes usually assume the task of interpreting them.

Mr. Garfield's report will be taken by the eminent gold brick artists as full directions as to where another sale may be made.

There are two classes of citizens who can not accept Mr. Garfield's report as final—those who sell the live stock and those who buy the dressed product.

Political reforms, like all other reforms, begin at home. Each individual must perform his civic duties before he can become a reforming force in his community.

Mr. Rockefeller has not heretofore paid much attention to legislative attempts against Standard Oil's welfare, but he is billed to gain a new experience with Kansas.

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The Nebraska legislature has indefinitely postponed a direct primary bill. The Nebraska legislature is overwhelmingly republican.

A majority of the American people are ready to believe that Mr. Garfield can sit in his office and report on all the rest of the trusts.

The "constructive recess" seems to be an infinitesimal fraction of time used as an excuse for doing things that should not be done.

No one doubts that the senate rate investigating committee will "sit" during the congressional recess. Palace car seats are very comfortable.

General Stoessel is now having trouble with those whom he tried to serve. The successful Japanese officers will have their innings just as soon as the trouble is over.

If the darkest hour is just before the dawn the numerous exposures of corruption would seem to justify the hope that the public is about to begin the purification of politics.

The only trust scotched by the late unlamented congress was the trust of those individuals who really thought congress would revise the tariff in the interests of the consumers.

Adrain C. Anson is the democratic candidate for city clerk of Chicago. A lot of his western friends are hoping that "Cap'n" Anson will hammer out a home run when the bases are full.

In Tom Watson's Magazine Dr. Girdner presents a new view of the franchise question and W. J. Ghent shows that the interstate railroads kill nearly twice as many each year as were killed at Gettysburg.

The refusal of congress to appropriate money to pay for the use of the old New York custom house will not worry the present owners. They will simply raise the interest rate on the money they paid for the building and kept in their own control.

They had a "divorce and alimony" dinner at Chicago recently, attended by a number of persons who have been prominent in the divorce courts. If the character of those present can be judged from the tone of their remarks about marriage, the "absent half" of the company might, with propriety, hold a celebration on Thanksgiving Day.

The re-election of Comptroller John B. Larkin by the democrats and independent republicans of Pittsburg is not only a tribute to an honest and incorruptible official but is a sign that even in Pennsylvania there is a civic conscience that can be successfully appealed to when things are at their worst.

The Deseret Evening News says: "Nebraska should join Kansas in her fight against the Standard Oil trust if for no other reason than that a historic association may be preserved." The trouble is that Kansas has no Standard Oil temple on her state university grounds, and the association can not be preserved unless Kansas secures one.

The North-American (Philadelphia) calls attention to the action of the ministers of that city in praying for the mayor. The very fact that religious exercises are being held for the purpose of reaching the heart of the city's chief executive is in itself evidence of a spiritual awakening, and Philadelphia certainly needs it. Whether the prayers are answered by the interposition of the Almighty, they may be answered in the arousing of a sentiment among the voters which will manifest itself at the polls when election day arrives. The prayers ought to react on the city's indifferent voters.

In his interesting report of his investigation of the beef trust, Mr. Garfield makes the astonishing statement that "the changes in the margin between the prices of cattle and the prices of beef are in themselves no indication whatever of the changes in the profits of the beef business." It will be extremely difficult for the average man to

get a satisfactory idea of what Mr. Garfield means by that statement. There is a general impression that the difference between what a man pays for an article and what he sells it for has a very important bearing upon the margin of profit he makes. Perhaps Mr. Garfield figures as did the old German who engaged in business and figured on making 1 per cent—that is, if he paid \$1 and sold it for \$2 he made \$1 or 1 per cent. Be that as it may, the idea that the difference between the price paid the cattle raiser and the price charged the beef consumer has no bearing on the margin of profit made by the packer will not find many supporters outside of the office in which Mr. Garfield does his figuring.

Mr. Neidringhaus claims that Mr. Kerens has "killed his chances for becoming senator," and Mr. Kerens admits it. Then Mr. Kerens claims that Mr. Neidringhaus has "killed his chances for becoming senator," and Mr. Neidringhaus admits it. This is interesting because it proves untrue the assertion that neither of the gentlemen referred to have ever done anything beneficial to their state. When Mr. Kerens made it impossible for Mr. Neidringhaus to become senator he conferred a great benefit upon Missouri, and when Mr. Neidringhaus made it impossible for Mr. Kerens to become senator he, too, conferred a great benefit upon Missouri. The Commoner submits that the people of Missouri owe to Messrs. Neidringhaus and Kerens a debt of gratitude.

Governor Vardamann of Mississippi does something more than talk about suppressing the lynching habit—and the word "habit" is used advisedly. When a mob surrounded the jail at Jackson, determined to lynch a prisoner charged with a crime all too common in the south, Governor Vardamann made an appeal to its members to let the law take its course. When the mob, aroused to frenzy, refused to heed his appeals, Governor Vardamann called out the local militia and the mob was beaten back. Under the personal direction of the governor the militia performed its duty, not acting as did the militia at Statesboro and several other places. Governor Vardamann has set his face against lynching, and his example is having a good effect throughout the country.

The Louisville & Nashville railroad announces that with the beginning of the present year it inaugurated a new era in the matter of issuing passes, and that from now on it will discontinue the practice of issuing passes to public officials, city, county and state. General Counsel Stowe, who is credited with the new order, says he is desirous of breaking up the system of influencing public officials by means of passes. If Mr. Stowe is correctly quoted he has given proof of the contention that passes are given to public officials for the purpose of influencing their actions. In this respect a pass is a bribe, and it is difficult to see how any public official can otherwise consider it. The pass evil has been responsible for a vast amount of corruption in public life, and if determined to abolish it, then that railroad will be doing the general public a great favor that other railroads should be quick to imitate.

Mayor Tom Johnson of Cleveland never minces his words, and it is pretty generally believed that when he makes a charge he is prepared to substantiate it. Mayor Johnson orally charged bribery by the Cleveland Electric Illuminating company, and when called upon for specifications, said: "I charge that F. W. Wilke and H. B. Dewar, members of the city council, who on February 5 voted against the ordinance to annex the village of South Brooklyn, did so because money was paid to them for their votes." Mayor Johnson then went on to charge fifteen other members, all republicans, with being influenced by contributions from the company. Wilke and Dewar are democrats. As the mayor made the charge in writing and offers to prove it, exciting times are promised and an investigating committee is now at work. With Tom Johnson in the mayor's chair there is every reason to believe that the facts will be brought out and no "white-washing" permitted.